

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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### WHY DOES ATTENDANCE MATTER?

Chronic absence — missing 10 percent of the school year, or just 2-3 days every month—can translate into third-graders unable to master reading, sixth-graders failing courses and ninth-graders dropping out of high school.



## WHAT WE'VE HEARD IN OUR CONVERSATIONS.

- Incentive programs have limited impact or only reward students that attend school
- Strategies are needed for attitudinal shifts from: “why care?” to “what can we do?”
- Better data analysis is needed statewide and locally
- You want practical and realistic examples on attendance policies and attendance programs



## BEST PRACTICES.

- Have real-time accessible data with consistent definitions
- Involve community partners to help grow awareness and implement strategies
- Don't recreate the wheel but learn from other communities's successes
- Utilize resources on Attendance Works
- Don't create a new team or additional meeting!
- Have these conversations with your Graduation Matters team





## WHAT CAN OPI DO?

- Partner with schools in a pilot program to improve quality of attendance data
- Work with schools and partners on attendance awareness
- Compile a toolkit. That will provide tools and examples of successful attendance initiatives and programs



## THANK YOU!

Time to hear from the experts.



Please welcome our attendance panelists and moderator!



- Moderator – Tom Moore, Assistant Superintendent with Great Falls Public Schools
- Panelists -
  - Jason Slater– Thompson Falls School District Superintendent
  - Jane Bennett – Principal of Willard Alternative High School in Missoula
  - Jane Gregoire – Principal of Great Falls High School in Great Falls

